

REMARKS

Objections to drawings and specification

The Office Action objected to the drawings pursuant to 37 C.F.R. 1.83(a) for failing to show features that have been claimed. With this amendment, claims 3 and 7 are canceled to address this objection, and thus the objection is moot.

Claim rejections pursuant to 35 U.S.C. § 112

The Office Action rejected claims 3 and 7 under 37 U.S.C. § 112, ¶ 1, as failing to comply with the enablement requirement. With this amendment, claims 3 and 7 are canceled, and thus the rejections under 37 U.S.C. § 112, ¶ 1, are moot.

Claim 1 was rejected under 37 U.S.C. § 112, ¶ 2, as being indefinite. Claim 1 has been amended to address this concern, as well as other rejections, and claim 1 is now in condition for allowance.

Claim rejections pursuant to 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1, 6, 8, and 9 were rejected as being anticipated by Bus, U.S. Patent No. 2,967,767. Bus discloses an article of furniture comprising flat panels secured by detachable connecting members. The connecting members contain internal recesses 25, 26 for receiving portions of draw members 13, 14.

Claim 1 has been amended to require the slot to be on the face, or outer surface, of the host structure. The disclosure of Bus does not contain any structure that corresponds to the slot on the face of the host structure as now required by amended claim 1. As such, Bus does not contain each and every element of the amended claim 1 (and dependent claims 6, 8, and 9) and does not anticipate the invention of the current application.

Claim rejections pursuant to 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 2 and 3 were rejected as being obvious over Bus in view of the knowledge of one of skill in the art. Claim 3 has been canceled. In view of the allowability of independent claim 1, the rejection of dependent claim 2 has been overcome.

Claims 4, 5, and 10-25 were rejected as being obvious over Bus in view of Ducharme, U.S. Patent No. 4,490,064. The Bus disclosure has been previously discussed. Ducharme discloses a modular construction for furniture comprising extruded frame members interconnected with panels. The panels are secured in place by the extruded frame members, which contain fasteners. The current application is directed to a system of fasteners contained within support panels that extend from the support panels to engage the host structures. In Ducharme, no part of the fastener is in the panel, which corresponds to the cross support element of independent claims 1, 10, 14, 17, and 23. As amended or originally presented, each of the independent claims requires that a portion of the fasteners be contained within the cross support, unlike the disclosure of Ducharme. As such, Ducharme teaches away from the present invention which provides for the fasteners to be in the support panel, and not entirely within the host structures as disclosed in Ducharme. Thus, there is no motivation to combine the reference with other prior art to meet all the elements of the claims of the current application. Further, in view of the allowability of independent claims 1, 10, 14, 17, and 23, dependent claims 2, 4-6, 8-9, 11-13, 16, 18-22, and 24-25, also stand allowable and the anticipation and obviousness rejections of said claims pursuant to 35 U.S.C. §§ 102(a) and 103(b) are obviated.

Conclusion

In conclusion, the present application is now in condition for allowance. Notice to that effect is requested. The Commissioner is authorized to charge any additional fees associated with this paper or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 11-0982.

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